

OPEIU LOCAL #9 Newsletter



Candy Johnson, President - local9candy@sbcglobal.net

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Dawn Martin, Business Manager - local9dawn@sbcglobal.net 414-771-9730

FAX: 414-771-9732

1-800-870-9499

PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
4:45 p.m.**

**Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
1st Floor Meeting Room
12 East Erie, Chicago, IL 60611**

Refreshments will be served.

OPEIU Membership Benefit Changes

PerksCard Benefit Discontinued effective October 1, 2013

OPEIU is pleased to report that the OPEIU Towing/Service Calls program is a big hit with members throughout the country, and that the program will continue to be a part of OPEIU's Membership Benefit Program at no additional cost to the members.

At the OPEIU 26th Convention in June 2013, however, the delegates approved the discontinuation of the PerksCard benefit due to low usage, effective October 1, 2013. While the towing program information will remain the same, to avoid any confusion OPEIU will be reissuing all members a new card without the PerksCard information.

All members' new towing/service call cards will be included in the next issue of *White Collar*. Members should remove the card from the magazine and put it in their wallet immediately. There also will be a key fob included that can be put on your keychain so it is with you at all times and can be used if you are in need of a tow or service call. Please note that all members'

current towing/service calls cards will remain in effect and can be used until they receive the new cards.

As a reminder, the OPEIU towing/service calls program is through Nation Safe Drivers (NSD) and all calls should be made to this company only. OPEIU is not responsible for reimbursing members for calls made to other towing services, so please consult this card and call the NSD number provided when you are in need of a tow or service call.

OPEIU Introduces Two New Membership Benefits

OPEIU has also announced that delegates to the OPEIU convention this past June approved the introduction of two new membership benefits for all OPEIU members—a \$2,000 life insurance benefit, and a \$2,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit. These new benefits are provided at no additional cost to the membership.

Both the life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment certificates will be included in the next issue of *White Collar*. Once received, these certificates should be removed from the magazine and kept in a safe place with other important financial documents.

All of this information will be published, along with your cards, in the next issue of *White Collar*, which will be mailed in late October.

9 Important Initiatives Coming Out of the AFL-CIO National Convention

The 2013 AFL-CIO quadrennial convention in Los Angeles was a flurry of exciting activity that promises to remake the labor movement for all working people to deal with the new challenges and political landscape working families must navigate. While there were many important discussions and plans made at the convention that will be expanded in the coming months and years, here are nine important initiatives

that came out of the resolutions passed by the convention delegates that you should know about.

1. **Expanding the Labor Movement.** The delegates recognized the need to expand the labor movement to be more broad and inclusive and to recognize all working families, whose rights are under assault in recent years. Six resolutions were passed dealing with a broad-inclusive and effective labor movement; assisting all workers to organize; global organizing; developing a Southern organizing strategy; building labor community partnerships and exercising our civic rights to rebuild our democracy; and expand workers rights and strengthen workers organizations.
2. **Economics for Shared Prosperity.** The convention delegates approved resolutions that call for new ways of thinking and talking about the economy, moving away from the conservative, pro-corporate way of discussing the economy. These included policies that will fix the parts of the economy that are having the biggest negative impact on working families.
3. **A Road Map to Citizenship for Aspiring Americans.** This was a recommitment to the ongoing support for and leadership in creating an immigration system that protects US workers, reduces the exploitation of immigrant workers, reduces employers incentives to hire undocumented workers, keeps families together, creates a road map to citizenship and contributes to shared prosperity for all.
4. **Embracing and Including the Diverse Worker.** Resolutions approved addressed working with people of color, young workers, the LGBT community and women's initiatives for shared values-shared leadership-shared prosperity.
5. **Retirement Security for All.** There were calls for strengthening and improving Social Security benefits, stronger protections for private and public pension laws and opposition to any

attempt to reduce Medicare or Social Security benefits.

6. **A New Approach to Trade and Globalization.** This calls for improvement in international trade deals, with a focus on protecting workers' rights around the world, environmental protections, preventing corporations from interfering with national sovereignty and public interest regulations.
7. **Opposing Mass Incarceration for Profit.** This recognized that the private prison industry, which pushes for laws that increase incarcerations rates so they can pad their profits, creates negative incentives for state and local governments to lock up more people, even when crime rates are low. Such policies harm communities and are unsafe for both inmates and prison employees.
8. **Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education.** As a key component of any strategy of improving the lives of working families, there is support for a broad range of educational reforms that ensure that all children have the opportunity to attend, safe, high-quality schools.
9. **Implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA).** The delegates supported the responsible implementation of the ACA, the protection of workers' rights in any health care exchanges made by government or private corporations, and continues to support the ultimate goal of a single-payer system.

As always, if you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to call or email our office.

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